Washington City, May 3d 1852.

Doctor A. Gray.

My dear Sir,

By this time you are likely to have received the seven boxes, containing the collection of plants you wanted; in fact all the plants of the Ex. Expedition - exclusive of those already in the hands of other individuals already, and a few fragments which I retained, as they could be of little use to you. Captain Wilkes would have the whole soldered up in Tin, but I had the lid so put on, that with a sharp instrument you can open it easily - and in such a manner as to admit of its being soldered down tight again. —

Along with the boxes there was sent a small package, containing the Keys of the former, together with a pair of Ladies Boots - and Night Shirt. I could not procure a set of Locks, so as to have one Key to fit all; hence the great number of Keys.

Boxes Nos 4. 5. 6 & 7, contain the collection of plants that Mr Rich worked upon; the other boxes contain plants from different Countries. I could not get the whole collection packed in five boxes — as we calculated, as those plants in bundles with boards would not fit snugly in the old boxes, so I had new ones made to suit them. I hope the whole will reach you safe, and afford much satisfaction in overhauling them.

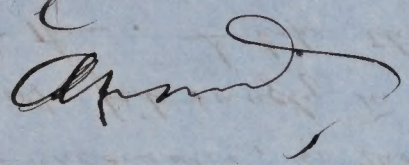
I am very busy just now, preparing to remove the Greenhouse and living plants, and if time permits, I will write you about the Fern Book, before you leave for Europe.

I am Sir

Yours very truly

Wm D. Brackenridge.

SHOUT
SHARE
IT



Washington D.C. March 30th 1853.

Dr Asa Gray

Respected Sir.

Yours of Dec 17th and 22d inst. duly reached me, and I must in all candour say - that I have acted very ungratefully towards both yourself and Dr Torrey - for many acts of kindness shewn me.

With regard to the number of Copies of the Fern book - which I thought of having printed for myself and friends - 75 appeared to be as many as I could well afford to pay for, as I never calculated on making money by it. I shall therefore be pleased to have you join in for the number of copies you specify - ¼ of 100. But - I do not see Doctor - how I am to find time to prepare and alter the MSS. neither do I perceive where a translation of the English into Latin is to be found - after what Dr Torrey did has been exhausted, I could not think of asking the Doctor to take hold of the remainder, for reasons which you know. Personally - there is no man whom I esteem more highly than the Doctor.

I should like much to see and consult the 6th part of Hookers Species Filicum. I have the first Vol. ending with page 245. Does his 6th part contain the Genus Adiantum? I want much to see that by him.

I am very busy just now. Please to let me know what you think of the first 6 proof pages of the Fern book - which no doubt has been sent you. Please to write me soon.

I am Yours

Very Respectfully

W. D. Brackenridge

X

Washington D.C. April 20th 1853.

Dr Asa Gray

Respected Sir

Yours of the 3d inst- together with the two parts of Hookers Species Filicum reached me safe. Many thanks for your kindness.

Mr Drayton has promised to send you proofs of the Ferns without delay. I am to have the revise, I will re-write my MSS, and use Dr Torreys Latin as far as prepared, after that; I shall be very glad indeed to avail myself of your kind offer to translate the remainder. The powers ~~that be~~ here are pestering me a good deal at present.

I observed that you queried the word "plane" as applied by me to sori, it is the opposite to sunken sori, which is common in the genus Polypodium,

Lt. Gibbon U.S. Navy, who has just returned from an exploration of the Amazon River and its tributaries, He has brought a small collection of dried plants from Bolivia and the Madeira River &c &c. Among them are some of your favourites - Compositæ, with a few other interesting plants. From a Conversation I had with Lt. G. I find that he intends to have them described (that is the new ones) and enumerated (the old ones), for his report: if you can spare time, I am satisfied you can have them, they are not in very good condition, Please let me know if you would do the work for him.

I am truly Yours. Wm D. Brackenridge

P.S. Agardhis Recensio Specierum Generis Pteridis - Came to hand safe.

Professor Asa Gray
Cambridge
Boston.

Washington D.C. May 26th 1853

Doctor Asa Gray

Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 6th inst was duly received. I thank you kindly for the interest you take in seeing to my work on ferns as it passes through the Press. The Printer has already received 121 pages of my Mss. which is as far as the specific Characters have been translated into Latin. I accept of your kind proposition to translate the remainder, and as this is extra labour, and will occupy some of your valuable time; to ~~compensate~~ remunerate you for this, I am empowered to offer you a compensation for this labour, And would state here as a round sum for to do the whole $80, and this amount I think would be as much as I could get the Committee to pass upon — without any objections being raised; should you think this to little, just let me know, and I will try what can be done farther. With this you will receive 52 pages of Mss. and your eye will detect what wants to be translated. The Printer will be in want of fresh material soon, so you would oblige me by doing a few sheets at your earliest Convenience — and send them to him.

I thank you for sending the paper to printer; to whom — and when am I to pay my share?

I saw Mr Gibbon yesterday, he has not yet made up his mind as to how the results of his Expedition is to be brought out: he has had your letter, and I presume has written you,

I have had a letter from Dr Torrey, and am pleased to learn that he is about to publish some new Californian plants in the transactions of the Smithson Institute, the Sarracenoid plant should have been made public long ago.

From time to time - at no great intervals apart: I shall send you more Mss. I have no time to rewrite it, and I give you permission to make such alterations in the Style of the work - as you may think best, and will take it as an act of Kindness if you would let me know wherein I can improve on what is to pass through my hands yet. There will be altogether 420 pages of Mss. that is with what is already in the Printer hands, and what will have to pass through your hands. There are two new Genera, which I would thank you to Name, and to assist you in this I shall either send you Specimens of the plants - or the original drawings. Captain Wilkes is in good spirits - and pleased to think that the Botanical Vol's of the Expedition are soon to appear.

Please to write me soon.

I am

truly Yours

Wm D. Brackenridge

Washington D.C. July 17th 1853.

Doctor A. Gray,

Dear Sir, I ought to have replied sooner to your last note, and very kind suggestions & corrections touching my fern Mss. But severe family afflictions, and the necessary attention due to my Public duties here, has nearly physically used me up. I like your name "Dicklidopteris" for the new Genus, and have adopted it. As you appear to think that the word "Stipes", might in the English, be used in the plural "Stipes", therefor, I have kept it so in the revise, In the Latin, that would I suppose be "Stipitibus". I have inserted the letter "h" in rachis. I believe that all your other suggestions, I have adopted in full; in fact, the importance of adopting them in general is very evident, so soon as I my attention is directed to them. In working up these ferns, I had to encounter many difficulties. In the first place, it was my maiden effort; and no one by me to advise with, and farther, I had no authenticated specimens, and but a limited number of Books to refer to; so that some or a good many mistakes may have been made: but I must in justice to myself, tell you, that I observed and worked very carefully; and now I wish that I had had you at my elbow then only one half hour each week. I herewith send you 10 more pages of Mss. in a few days I send on more. All the rest came safe to hand.

I am Yours respectfully

Wm D. Brackenridge.

Doctor A. Gray

Cambridge University

Boston.

Washington D.C. May 10th 1854.

Dr Asa Gray.

Dear Sir.

Yours of March 11th & 22d. April the 4th & May the 1st, together with corrections and translations of my Mss. — and lately the various sheets of proof in due order.

You have much reason to think that I have been remiss in not acknowledging the receipt of so many favours; but the truth of the matter is this, I have been absent from the city the greater part of the month of April, laying out a pleasure Garden for a Gent: near Baltimore, having in the early part of March, resigned my situation of Superintendent of Public Grounds here, and which took effect on the 1st of April; I was driven to this act, by the very unhandsome manner that I was treated by the Government; and so soon as the Fern book is finished, it is my intention to start business for myself as a commercial fruit and ornamental tree grower — perhaps in the vicinity of Baltimore.

In answer to the subject matter of your various friendly notes, I would in the first place say, that I have endeavoured to profit by them. The little Lycopodium looking plant from Brazil, will now be sent without delay to Mr Sullivant, nevertheless that I am of the opinion that Sir William is not exactly correct in his conclusions regarding it.

I have sent to Dr Torrey a specimen and description of my new Species of Angiopteris. from Manilla, and asked him to compare the same with the species of this genus published in the Monograp of Marattiaceæ, by Devriese & Hartig. I shall look out and have Lycopodiaceæ, brought in after Ophioglosseæ.

With regard to the Copies of my book, I would say, that, according to our original understanding, you were to have 25 of the 100, by furnishing paper for the 25, this would leave me 75. 25 of which I intend to keep for my friends, and would like to dispose of the remaining 50 to the best advantage, to assist in covering my expenses, (you are aware that I lost $93 by the fire in Phila.) I do not know what my book, when complete, would be worth per Vol. but I would feel satisfied with any arrangement you might make with the Bookseller who takes your own book, to sell also my 50 Copies; and in this matter I authorize you to act according to the best of your judgement for my advantage, and by attending to this, you will oblige me much; but at the same time, I would have you to understand that I do not want this interest of mine to do away with your 25 Copies, as you have heretofore acted so very kindly towards me.

In a short time I shall be sending on the Lycopodiaceæ to you.

I had a letter today from the Printer, he says, that, he wants to push my book through as fast as possible, and suggests that time might be saved, by shipping either the 1st proofs or revises sent direct by you to him; for my part I think it is necessary and proper, that the first proofs be sent by you through me, as I find that very frequently the authorities are misquoted; but if you think that it would do for you to send the revises direct back to him, then do so, but please to let me hear from you on this head.

None of my plates are yet lettered. I cannot get press copy, but Mr Drayton is expected here soon, and I shall stir him up on this score.

I regretted being absent when Dr Torrey was in our city.

I remain Yours
Very Respectfully
W. D. Brackenridge.

Washington D.C. May 22d 1874.

Dr A. Gray

My dear Sir.

Yours of the 19th inst, with 2d-wise of Sejn-44 reached me yesterday. The quotations, suggestions and remarks you make on my Asplenium australe, are difficult things to reply to; but still I shall proceed to tell you what I think of the matter.

In the 1st place, I have carefully compared my description with the single specimen of the plant in the collection, and that I find is correct. In the 2d place, I have examined & Compared our specimen, with the Athyrium australe, Hook Gen. Fil. t. 16, (then said to be the Allantodia australis, R.Br. Prodr. p. 149.) and find that in our plant, the pinnules are more deeply pinnatifid, the segments more deeply serrate or toothed, the greater portion of the veins are forked, the sori closer to the costa, and the rhachis of the pinnules are compressed, as stated in our description. So by the above, you will perceive that if the plant figured in Hook. Gen. Fil. is the true Allantodia australis R. Br.; then our plant is a more deeply divided variety, with the rhachis of the pinnules more compressed, and with the majority of the veins forking at the outer end of the indusium, as you will discover by examination of the two pinnules of the specimen herewith enclosed.

I had a copy of R. Br. Prodr. by me, when I arrived at the conclusion that our plant was the Allantodia lenera, And found afterwards, that Allen Cunningham (or

more properly - Sir William H. - for he was the man), had determined that a fern, from almost the same locality, was Mr Browns. Allantodia tenera also; this was a sort of corroboration of my views.

Nevertheless after all I have said, I still fear Doctor, from the quotations you make from Dr. Hookers Fl. of N. Zealand, that neither he, nor Sir William, are clear in their views - or are acquainted with R. Browns Allantodia tenera; And as for myself, I have not the materials to throw a clear case on my own part, far less to put any one else right in this matter. Therefore under such circumstances I think it would be better to ignore - or leave out of sight - all that Dr. Hooker has said in the matter, and retain my name of Asplenium Australe, and add syn. Allantodia australis, R. Br. Prodr. p. 149. - and if you think it safe and prudent - you may add - Athyrium Australe, Hook. Gen Fil. t. 16. Or make a note of it - as Mr R. prints the only Indian, &c. by Sir W. Hooker!

I shall in a few days answer your letter, in relation to the price, number of copies &c of my book. The 25 copies that you were to have, appear to bother you, so Doctor - if you do not take the real copies themselves, we can so arrange that you can get the price of them.

I am very truly Yours

W. D. Brackenridge.

as you suggest.

Washington D.C. May 27th 1834

Dr. A. Gray.

My dear Sir.

Yours of the 24th with Sig. 60 & 61 of proof, reached me safe.

I learn from Mr Drayton, that the cost of paper and printing of 100 copies of my book, will be $273. and to which ought to be added the $93 for plate paper, which I lost by the fire in Phil.a .. $366.

In my Atlas there will be 45 plates, and about 400 pages of descriptive matter in the Vol. I really do not know, what its retail price per copy should be, you suggest "$12.50" - or that "I (you) might say $15." I think $12.50 would be a fair price - say $8 for the Atlas and $4.50 for the printed Vol?

I appreciate fully your motives for giving up the claim to 25 copies - and see exactly its bearing on my interest in the sale of the book. I shall therefore bear all the cost of producing 100 copies, out of which you shall have at least 6 for yourself, and Dr. Torrey one or two, and dispose of 80 to Putnam & Co to cover expenses &c &c. This arrangement will leave me about 10 copies for myself, not one of which I promise, shall hart the sale of the 80.

As I posess little knowledge in the disposing of book matter; you would therefore oblige me much

by making such an arrangement – as to price &c. with Putnam & Co for my 80 copies, as you think would be most to my advantage, the Copies to be delivered to them in sheets. I think it is perhaps better – at this late date in the matter, that I should pay for paper & printing of both the Atlas & text – as I believe that Mr Drayton has already plate paper on hand for me, I do not wish to make known any of my other arrangements to him.

After what I have said above, if you find there is any difficulty in the way of you making an arrangement for me with Putnam & Co.: and if you would rather that I should communicate with them myself – you would in that event, have to oblige me with your opinion as to what you think they ought to give me for it – with other hints to guide me; but I have full confidence that you can arrange the affair yourself.

I remain
Yours very truly
W. D. Brackenridge.

Outside $5 00

Baltimore Oct 4th 1854.

Dr Asa Gray

My dear Sir.

During my late trip to N. York & Philadelphia, I have been looking out for a Gardener for you, but did not succeed in these quarters. Today I have seen a young man in this city that I think will suit you exactly, he is active, intelligent, well educated, understands his business well, and has practically a very fair knowledge of plants. He is on terms with a gentleman in Virginia to go as gardener, but would prefer your place. Under your guidance for a short time - he would ultimately prove a valuable man for your establishment. And if you have not already procured a man I would advise you to write him, stating your terms &c &c

Address him "Thomas Spence, Gardener. Care of Mr Charles W. Stobie, Florist, Cathedral Street Baltimore."

I have been to see Dr Torrey, and left with him the two Dr's of Hook. Spec. Filicum - belonging to you, I could not afford time enough to come your length, but will I think see you before the hard Northern winter sets in.

I saw Mr Drayton in N. York. Captain Wilkes was to have been married there yesterday. Hope you did not loose much by Putnams failure. Truly Yours

W. D. Brackenridge.

I will write you soon from Washington

Dr
Asa Gray
Cambridge University
Boston
Mass.

Washington D.C. Oct. 9th 1854.

Dr Asa Gray.

My dear Sir.

On the 4th inst. while on my way home I wrote you from Baltimore concerning Thomas Spence - a Gardener now living with Mr Chas W. Stobie, Florist, Cathedral St. - as being a very suitable man to take charge of your Garden. I then stated that it might be well for you to write him; and if you have not done so already, I could engage him - after having received instructions from you - as to time and terms. As is the only available man that I met with among the vast number of Gardeners which I saw at Nurseries and Gardens in and about Phila & N. York, on my visit there, that I thought possessed the requisite qualifications to take charge of your Establishment; and he is now free to join you at any time.

I spent a very pleasant forenoon in N. York with Dr Torrey, and found him busy examining a batch of California plants. I left with him the two numbers of Hookers Spec. Fil. you so kindly loaned me, these he promised to forward to you the first favourable opportunity that presented. Owing to private business of my own which demanded my presence in Philadelphia, I found it impossible to go as far as Boston, but I do expect

to see you there before the end of the present year.

I saw Mr Drayton for a few minutes in New York, and he told me that the lettering of my plates was not yet done; I dislike this delay - as there is no good cause for it, I shall now prepare the Index for the Atlas - and have done with it. Are your plates finished yet?. I saw a copy of your Book. - it looks well; and hope that you have not lost the Copies furnished to Putnam previous to his failure, That was an unlucky failure, yet it is well that I escaped it, Capt Wilkes & Mr Drayton will I believe lose considerable by this burst up.

Have you ever got a press copy of the Title & Preface of my Book, I have not received it yet.

So soon as Capt Wilkes and Mr Drayton returns here, I shall try and effect a settlement for my time and trouble, and at the same time I shall settle with you for the printing paper for my book.

Please to write me soon - and believe me to remain

Yours very truly

W. D. Brackenridge.

Washington D.C. 9th Nov 1854.

Doctor Asa Gray.

My dear Sir.

I ought to have responded to yours of Oct the 11th sooner, but I have been from home. When in Baltimore I saw, and stated your terms to Mr Spence the Gardener; with which he is satisfied, and will hold himself in readiness to join you in April next. He will during the winter months assist in laying out a new place as a Park and Garden in Virginia. Touching his sobriety - you need have no fear, and in other respects I firmly believe that he is the very man that will suit you. But should you change your mind in regard to parting with your present Gardener you will please to let me know, so that I may look out for something else for him.

I write to Mr Drayton to send you on a proof Copy of the Title, Preface &c of my Book of Ferns, and which I hope has reached you before this.

Captain Wilkes has not yet returned to this City, and I suppose I shall have to wait till Mr Pearce arrives - before I can have all my affairs settled up with Uncle Sam. Tomorrow I start for Baltimore - where I shall remain at least two weeks, and before I return home I shall pay a visit to some friends in Philadelphia.

I have not yet bought a place, but will do so before long. It has been told me that you may visit Washington this Winter, I shall be glad to find that this is true, for I long to have a talk with you. It is also pleasing to learn that it is not so bad with you and Putnam as I was led to believe. Are you pushing Mr Drayton to get your plates ready, I have pushed him with regard to mine, but have not yet got a proof of the letter press & Atlas or plates. He is to look out for a Bookseller for me, but so far no success. It is difficult to know well what to do at the present time in relation to this book affair, I am Truly Yours

W. D. Brackenridge

over

I accept - and thank you kindly for the proffered copy of your Book of Botany of the Ex. Expedition, and as I would like to have a look over it soon, you would oblige me by forwarding it by Express. to Washington.

W. D. B.

Washington D.C. Dec. 12th 1854.

Dr Asa Gray.

My dear Sir.

While in Baltimore I received your favor of Nov 13th, And on my reaching Washington I found the promised Copy of your book, on the botany of the Ex. Ex, awaiting me, and for which accept my thanks. I have read it through carefully, and consider that you have done your part admirably, nevertheless that you have said many things in regard to the quality and quantity of the specimens - together with the habitates, which vexes me much to see in print; on account of my having collected the major part of the plants, and preserved all (except a few from Sierra del Fuego), put up, labeled and sent home the whole; for all of which acts, I know you are willing - and have already given me ample credit. Therefore, this question will naturally arise in the minds of the botanical world, from whence, and by what cause should there exist in your report so many doubts as to the habetate of species, how scraps of solitary specimens - and as to others being imperfect in flower, fruit &c &c. Now Doctor, the inference to be drawn from the relation you have placed me in regard to the collection is, that said blunders were commited by me; and I think you will perceive, that there is no getting rid of such an inference, in the

absence of a preface to your report, explanatory of the real cause of said blunders, many of which you can no doubt trace to their proper source. If I understand me aright, I would not that you suppose for a moment my good Sir, that I wish to saddle any act of omission or commission of mine on the shoulders of others, tho. I bore more than my fair share of the burden while on the Expedition, and I am willing to bear a little even now, were it to prevent scarious difficulties, but I cannot permit, either by implication or inference, the acts of other men to go to the world in such a shape as that they can be set down to my account in full. I do not mean at present to go into the details of this matter touching persons, things and circumstances connected therewith, but should it ever become necessary, I am ready to do so, that is, to afford you all the facts touching this matter, or else publish them on my own responsibility.

Then are one or two things in the book Doctor, that I wish to draw your attention to. You say that "Sterile specimens of Tropæolum tricolor, occur in the Sandwich Island Collection from Puna, Hawaii"? No such Tropæolum was found by us on these Islands; but I did detect in the forests of Puna, a plant like said Tropæolum - or a creeping Ranunculus - without flowers, clinging to the stem of a small tree, and which I take to be the plant you allude to; please to look at it again. What has become of the Tropæolum, from Baños, Peru, in flower, resembling T. tuberosa, but distinct both in its flower and roots, which latter I dug up. Did you not find in the Freycinet collection a Passiflora - without flower, having 3 lobed leaves, several specimens of it were collected by me on the Island of Ovolau, I looked upon it as a novelty, Bentham noticing it in the London Jour. Bot. 2. p. 222.

I prefer Dr Pickerings memoranda of the plants collected by us at the Philippine, Sooloo & Mangsi Islands. also Singapore, Cape of G. Hope, St. Helena &c. You might have had these long ago, but I thought you preferred the Doctors original notes - Mine is at your command.

Spence the Gardener is now in employ for the winter only, we can talk his case over when you come on. I have not been able to get a single proof of my fern plates since lettered, I have written and talked to Mr Drayton about it, as well as sending you a prefs copy of my preface, but nothing appears to move them, I do not know what they are about.

Captain Ringgold has arrived, and is now perfectly well, I hope Mr Wright will now have a chance to do something handsome, but I much doubt it.

I Am My dear Sir
Yours very truly
W. D. Brackenridge.

Govanstown, near Baltimore.
Oct. 29th 1853.

Dr. Asa Gray.
My dear Sir.

Yours of the 17th inst, reached me only two days ago - through Mr Drayton. I was truly gratified to hear from you so soon after your hasty run to Paris & London, and was also pleased to learn of the welfare of Sir Wm Hooker & Mr Smith. The former you say "has received a Collection of Fuegian Plants - rich in Ferns - & is now studying them." I perfectly agree with you, that he ought to have a Copy of my Fern Book, and it was always my intention to present him with one so soon as it was printed. What progress has been made with it, I am unable to say. Mr Drayton - on Oct 6th - writes me thus in relation to it. "The Govt 100 - & some plates of your (mine) Atlas are printed, and I am about - to bind up the Govt 100 - What say you to that?" And further in the same letter he says, "I have made a partial agreement - with the Appletons for your Book, If Putnam would pay Cash, it would be better he should have it with Dana's & Dr Grays Book." And to the latter disposition of it, I agree. In Mr D's letter to me again, on the 22d inst - He says. "I have had a copy of your Atlas on my table for more than a month, and I wish you to ask whether I would bind the Govt Copies"

by the quotations.

So you see that the prospects made with my Book do not agree, and I do not care a Fig whether the Govt Copies are ever Bound or not. I corrected the Proofs of the Atlas when in Phila last August, so there is no cause for delay on this quarter. I have written him twice this month — urging the speedy printing of the Atlas, the letter Press is finished (according to his account) long ago, at least I have paid for the printing.

I do not know Doctor — the quantity of Paper — of yours — that was used for my book, or what the price may be, I have written to Mr D. regarding the quantity, and you can then state what the amount is I am indebted, and if possible I will make it good without delay; But I expected to have made a sale of the work by this time, so as to cover all expenses by that. As my outlays for Stock and improvements on my Nursery are — and have been heavy — and the income next to nothing.

I hope both Mrs Gray & yourself are enjoying good health, pray! what progress are you making in your other Vol — of Exploring plants? Poor as was our Collection of Feejee plants — it will I fear be some time before it is excelled — owing to the Savage disposition of the inhabitants.

I have not heard for a long time from Dr Torrey — but I presume he is like myself — very busy.

I shall write you again, so soon as I hear from Mr Drayton. I Am very respectfully

Yours —

W. D. Brackenridge.

Govanstown. Nov 5th 1853.

Dr Asa Gray

My dear Sir.

Your favor of the 2d inst reached me today. I have just written Mr Drayton, requesting him to forward you a Copy of my Book without delay. You will please to accept of this (not as one of the Copies originally intended for you), and present it to Sir William on your own acct. as it is my intention to forward one to Mr John Smith before long. I believe this arrangement will please all parties. There is nothing in the Charge, that I "do not answer Mr D's letter," but I may have misunderstood what he did write. I have been trying through him, to get Putnam to purchase my Book, but the negotiation goes on very slowly. I am willing to sell cheap - in order to get money to meet all that it has cost me. In my letter just now to Mr D. I have prayed him to make a return of what my book has cost, and what the prospect is of an early sale.

My Post Office - is Govanstown. But Address Govanstown by Baltimore, Md.

I remain

Sincerely Yours

W. D. Brackenridge

Govanstown near Baltimore,
April 21st 1856

Dr Asa Gray.
My dear Sir.

Your of the 14th inst was duly rec'd, and I was very glad to hear from you indeed. Hooker's "pleasant notice of my Book", I have not seen, but about six weeks ago I had a very friendly letter of acknowledgement of the Copy sent him; and would like very much to see his public notice of the work.

You ask - and with some degree of right too, "Why my book is not out, and Why I permit all this delay." Now Doctor touching this book matter, I will be candid ~~with~~ seeing that you took much interest in, and ~~expended much~~ both labour & means in helping me with it. When I had the means at my command, at a time when my number of Copies could have been thrown off in a couple of weeks, and nevertheless that I urged its speedy completion, I was put off from time to time, by some delay or another of the Printers, until I got tired of it, ~~until~~ at last I was told that it was completed, and then I had my means so merged in my Nursery Operations, that I could not meet the cost of printing the plates, although I had previously paid for the plate paper & printing of the

the text. Mr Drayton was authorized by me to make an arrangement with Putnam — or some one else to sell the 50 Copies, Mr D. wrote me last fall that Putnam might be prevailed upon to take them, and pay me for such Copies as he might sell. I then again wrote Mr D. telling him to make the best bargain he could for me, and if possible get a payment on the work in advance, so that I might clear off the debts upon it; since then I have not heard from him, but will write him tonight or tomorrow, in order to ascertain what arrangement he may have made, and until the book is sold, I fear Doctor, that it will be impossible for me to raise money to pay you for the paper, or the printing of the plates. This is regret much, as I began the work in good spirit, and faith in all concerned, but got Badgered by the way, which somewhat disgusted me with the whole affair.

If time at this season would allow, I would go right on to Phila and try and arrange matters, as a few writing will effect but little, but the last long severe winter has thrown me much back in my business; but as soon as the busy season is over I will — if health permits — go as far North as N. York.

I am my
Dear Sir
Yours very sincerely
W. E. Blackmore.

Govanstown, near Baltimore.
May 31st, 1854

Dr. Asa Gray
My dear Sir.

It is now fully one month since I rec'd your last note, and the excuse for being so long in replying thereto is this. Immediately on its receipt, I wrote Mr Drayton to know if he had effected the sale of the Fern Book, & received no reply until the day before yesterday, he conveyed to me the unfortunate intelligence, that all the Copies of my Book (except 10 he had sent to Putnam) was consumed by fire, in the Artisan Building, Phila on the 11th of April last, together with a number of Copies of Wilkes narrative, Dana's Crustacea, also the great Atlas of Charts, and 25 Copies each of Vols 8.9.10.11. 12.13.14.15 & 16, of the Scientific works of the Ex. Ex. The loss of Mr D. himself is $500. He also adds, that since the fire, he has been very sick? This is a bad affair for me at this time, and I have just posted a note to Dr Torrey, to see Putnam and stop the sale of the Copies on hand, so that I may be able to make good my promise to you in Copies of the same - as well as other friends. Drayton has acted very singularly in this affair as he never notified me of having sent Copies to

Putnam, and now at this late date, & the destruction of the other Copies, I have written him to know, what arrangements he made with Putnam about its sale. I dont see how I can reprint, I have now lost all, together with $82. worth of Plate paper by fire — on a former occasion. I have not yet got a copy for myself. and I do not see how I can at present remunerate you ~~now~~ for the printing paper you furnished, but do not think so for that I intend to repudiate, nevertheless, my misfortunes by bad management on the part of others, my own business is not paying me yet. having had to stock my place with trees, plants &c &c which has cost me a big sum.

I have lately rec^{d} 2 letters from Sir William Hooker, with a copy of this Century of Ferns, and a box of living plants. he is very kind, and I intend sending him for the Kew Gardens, Specimen of woods, trees, shrubs, plants seeds.

I remain

Yours

Very Sincerely

W. D. Brackenridge

Govaunstown near Dalkey
June 9th 1856

Dr Asa Gray
My dear Sir.

Yours of the 5th is to hand, and by the same mail a letter from Mr Drayton enclosing one from Putnam & Co who state that, "all the 10 Copies of my Book are sold, and that the most of them went to Germany & England." This last staggers me and frustrates all my designs. Drayton says now, (and it is the first time I am made aware of the fact) that only 20 Copies of my plates were printed, therefore 10 were lost by fire. and he farther adds, that "a reprint of my book - exclusive of the paper, would cost $300.00, this I cannot of myself do, having lost enough by the affair already. but taking the hint from you, it is my intention - without delay - to present the case to the Library Committee, but I fear the Committee will be influenced by Wilkes & Drayton from giving my affair a favourable consideration, both of them having so much to ask for themselves, and farther - Mr Pearce - Chairman

of the Committee. I am well aware, is long since tired of Wilkes & the Expedition works, having been so often hoodwinked - and in this latter respect he is not the only one. If you think your influence with Captain Wilkes would induce him to aid me in my case before the Committee, then do me the favor to write him without delay - at New Port, R. Island, where Drayton tells me he is sojourneying with his his family at present.

I have not got a copy for myself, and I feel quite as sore, that you and Dr Torrey are also left minus - yours, this Doctor is the most unfortunate affair that ever befell me, I can get ~~nothing~~ nothing straight forward out of Drayton - only bits & snacks of the business every now and then, he has not even - after being asked, told me the price that Putnam was to pay me per Copy - and seems to be somewhat offended at my last letter, which was simply a plain business one, containing nothing which could be construed as personal. Could I spare time, I would go on and see the Peace & the Committee, but I am buried up in business just now. I wrote Dr Torrey about a week ago, but I fear he has not received my letter, as I addressed him only in N. York - having lost the No & name of the St & place of his residence.

You must again give me all the help in the shape of advice - that your valuable time will admit of, and I can only see, that a reprint of my book can be effected through the aid of the Library Committee alone. I feel very small indeed when contemplating the result of this protracted book business of mine.

I do not know whether Government had any insurance on the articles in Drayton's Rooms or not, their articles were not insured - when I lost my plate papers some 5 or 6 years ago, I tried then to get Government to refund me the amount (#82.) but failed. The whole management of this Expl. Exp. book business has been loose from beginning to End. Write soon, and believe me to remain very Sincerely

Yours

W. D. Brackenridge.

P. S.

I would like to see Sir Williams notice of my book, what book, No & Vol is it in? (In great haste)

Govanstown
Augst 18th 1856

Dr Asa Gray
My dear Sir.

Enclosed you will find a Draught on the Merchant Bank, Boston in your favor, as part payment of the bill I owe you for Paper furnished for that book of mine, the ballance of the bill I shall meet as soon as possibly can, at present money matters are rather tight with me.

I laid my claim for a reprint of my book - before the Library Committee, in a respectfull - but confident manner, but so far I have received no reply, I also wrote Mr Pearce personally on the subject, he also has not yet answered my letter, my hopes of success are small as I feel quite satisfied that both Wolfe & Mr Drayton are against me - or rather they have Fish of their own to fry - to effect which - a reprint of my book would come in the way. I am

Yours very respectfully
W. D. Brackenridge